

FOCUS: Neighborhoods

Strategies for the Year:

The Human Environment - maintain and strengthen human connections within neighborhoods, encourage inclusive participation, foster safety, strengthen neighborhood leadership and encourage a greater sense of community.

The Built Environment - invest public funding and encourage private investment and public/private partnerships in Tucson's neighborhoods and enhance their appearance and livability.

The Natural Environment - respect and preserve our natural environment.



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CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW FIRE STATIONS WITHIN CITY LIMITS (STATIONS #20 AND #21)

The construction of Fire Station 20, located at 4798 N. First Ave, and Fire Station 21, located at 8640 E. Tanque Verde, was approved by the voters in the 2000 bond election. Both stations are designed to accommodate one fire engine company, one ladder company and one paramedic unit, enabling them to deliver both medical and fire suppression emergency services. The locations of these stations were selected to serve already developed areas of our City. In the case of Station 20, relief will be provided to one of the nation's busiest fire companies (Station 8). These two new stations will also be positioned to serve growing areas of our community and to support future City annexations.

Accomplishments

- The construction sites were located, appraised and purchased for the fire stations. Design of the fire stations was completed utilizing an existing design (Station 6). A construction company was hired to handle pre-construction services and the construction of the facilities.
- Meetings were held with members of the neighborhood associations to provide them with information about the facilities and to offer them the opportunity for input into station appearances.
- The Tucson-Pima Arts Council developed a selection process and an artist was selected for artwork at each location.
- Full plans for the facilities were approved by the City and submitted to Development Services for construction permits.



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MOTORIZED SKATEBOARDS – ANALYSIS AND ORDINANCE ADOPTION

In response to neighborhood concerns, the Mayor and City Council directed staff to analyze all aspects of motorized skateboard use and to return with options and recommendations for possible regulation of these vehicles. A multi-departmental team was formed, including representatives from the City Prosecutor's Office, Tucson Fire, the Tucson Police Department, the Department of Transportation and the City Manager's Office. The team investigated this issue from a variety of perspectives: legal, law enforcement, traffic engineering, health and safety, recreational use and alternative transportation. Concerns expressed by neighbors were considered. The users' standpoints as well as the retail vendors/manufacturers standpoint were taken into account. Actions taken by other communities were investigated and reviewed for their applicability to our situation. This was a thorough, comprehensive effort to review this important matter and to come up with the best solution for Tucson.

Accomplishments

- There was a great deal of public attention focused on this issue. Staff reached out to all stakeholders during the data gathering and analysis phase of their work.
- The Mayor and Council Neighborhood Subcommittee served as the first review point for the work of the team. The full governing body discussed the issue and provided ideas prior to an ordinance being drafted. A well-attended public hearing drew speakers from all sides of the issue.
- At the conclusion, the Mayor and City Council voted 7-0 to adopt an ordinance that prohibits use of motorized skateboards and associated vehicles on public rights-of-way in Tucson. This ordinance is well crafted and strong, addressing our City's needs in a fair and effective manner.
- Other communities in Arizona are now studying the ordinance and the process used to arrive at Tucson's solution as a model.



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LIBRARY FACILITIES - MILLER-GOLF LINKS BRANCH, EXPANSION COMPLETION AND PROGRESS ON QUINCIE DOUGLAS BRANCH CONSTRUCTION

The library embarked in the year 2000 on two capital projects to improve the library experience for residents of two City neighborhoods: 1) the addition of a 5,000 square foot expansion to the George Miller-Golf Links library branch which serves the Southeast side and 2) the construction of a 10,000 square foot, full-service Quincie Douglas library branch which will serve residents of several neighborhoods in the vicinity of 36th Street and Kino Parkway. The total budget for both projects was \$5 million, with funds coming from the 2000 City bond program.

Accomplishments

- The George Miller-Golf Links Branch expansion is complete and a formal re-opening ceremony was to be held on August 30, 2004. The library branch hours have been adjusted with the approval of all area stakeholders in order to better meet the needs of the surrounding community.
- The Quincie Douglas Library groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 25, 2004. At the beginning of the new fiscal year, walls have begun to go up. Work on the interior framing completion of the roof structure are the next steps. Construction completion is expected next Spring, with opening to the public targeted for July 2005.



Library Facilities Construction:
Miller-Golf Links Branch



Library Facilities Construction:
Miller-Golf Links Branch



Library Facilities Construction:
Quincie Douglas Branch



Library Facilities Construction:
Quincie Douglas Branch

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LIBRARY'S READY TO READ PROGRAM– BILINGUAL CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR CAREGIVERS

The library's Youth Outreach department partnered with Child and Family Resources to train in-home childcare providers in reading related activities to support early brain development. The grant paid for the printing of materials for the classes and books for the childcare providers and participating families to keep.

Accomplishments

- A youth outreach librarian, with expertise in emergent literacy, taught classes to 43 in-home childcare providers.
- Two 3-part workshops were held, one in English and one in Spanish; the third session included the children and their parents. 129 childcare providers, parents and children attended the third sessions.
- Approximately 1,200 children's picture books were given away to families and childcare providers.
- Pre- and post-questionnaires were given to the workshop participants.
 - English language workshop participants who felt they knew a lot about infant brain development increased to 100%. Those who strongly agreed early literacy skills are important for every child increased to 100%. The parents felt they learned more about library services and children's programs at the library. 100% of them said they planned to visit their local library and read more to their children as a result of the third session.
 - Spanish language workshop participants who felt they knew a lot about infant brain development increased to 88%. The average time spent reading to the children in their care increased by 1 hour per week. 100% of the parents at the last class session reported they learned about library services and children's programs at the library, planned to visit their local library and read more to their children.
- Though the grant-funded program has been completed, the library will continue to reach out to childcare providers through a variety of venues to provide instruction on early brain development and literacy. Efforts will be made to secure additional funding for books to give to childcare providers who complete the workshops.



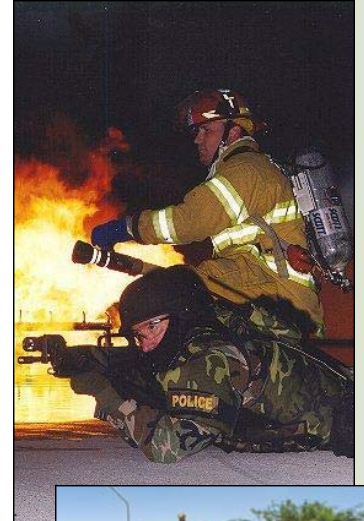
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POLICE TARGETED OPERATIONAL PLANNING (TOP)

The Tucson Police Department's Targeted Operational Planning (TOP) program is a unique and innovative approach to addressing community crime problems based on New York Police Department's Compstat Program. Since it was reported on in the last City Strategic Plan Year End Report, the program was successfully rolled out to all five TPD divisions within the city. The approach combines the use of three "best practices" models – Community Policing, Community Problem solving and Information Driven Policing. Each TPD division manages its own crime approach, working with the community and stakeholders to determine the problems in the area and effective solutions. Division commanders are conducting detailed analysis of crime issues and uncovering some of the root causes of these problems, not merely symptoms or results.

Accomplishments

- *South 6th Ave./South 12th Ave. Violence Reduction* – Operations Division South analyzed the type and number of crimes in their area, which showed the area's challenge was violent crime. Using the TOP approach, the division met its goal to reduce violent crime in this area by 25% and has maintained it for over 9 months.
- *Oracle Road Corridor* – Operations Division West focused efforts on the Oracle Road corridor between Prince and Speedway. Crime in this area has predominantly been prostitution, drugs and violent crime. The results have had a dramatic impact on the neighborhood.
- *Crime Free Multihousing Program and Meth Lab Clean Up* – Operations Division Midtown had a high number of violent crime, robbery and sex assaults. Using crime analysis, demographics, and field interviews, the division has been able to successfully tackle these problems.
- *Auto Theft and Car Larceny* – Operations Division East encountered high rates of auto theft and car larceny in the Wilmot Rd./Pima St. area. Through education efforts, stakeholder meetings and visibility out in the neighborhoods, the division has met its goals of reducing vehicle related problems in the neighborhood.
- *4th Avenue Initiative* – Operations Division Downtown narrowed its efforts to controlling crime and increasing police visibility along 4th Avenue. TPD officers worked with the businesses, social service agencies, schools, bar owners, churches and neighborhood associations in the area to address key elements needing improvement along the corridor. Recent surveys show that 72% of area residents feel safer and feel TPD is more responsive.



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HOPE VI – SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD/ ROBERT F. KENNEDY HOMES REVITALIZATION

The goal of the HOPE VI project is to upgrade the living conditions for public housing residents and neighbors, to help empower youth, to reduce crime and to bring economic development opportunities to spur growth in the South Park neighborhood. FY 2004 was the 3rd year of a 4-year project. The Community Services Department is taking the lead in this effort, which also involves multiple City departments and community partners.

Accomplishments

Housing:

- 52 public housing units in South Park were demolished and replaced by new single family homes acquired in other neighborhoods.
- Renovation of 24 of the 28 Robert F. Kennedy public housing units was completed.
- Five of the 20 new lease purchase homes were completed.
- 67 existing low-income owner-occupied homes were repaired.
- 9 dilapidated buildings were demolished.

Community and Supportive Services: Tucson Federal Credit Union and the CODAC Behavioral Health Services Center are offering services in a newly renovated community facility. The UA Mobile Health Clinic is providing weekly health care services.

PRO Neighborhoods and the Metropolitan Housing Corporation have partnered with the neighborhood to develop one of the South Park public housing sites as a community arts and culture center.

Economic Development: Tucson Urban League has completed two 15-week business education classes for South Park businesses. Technical assistance was provided to help businesses prepare business plans. The Workforce Development Employment Essentials training program for South Park residents is underway.

Weed & Seed: Working with the Tucson Police Department, the Kino Weed & Seed Coalition has implemented a strategic plan that focuses on law enforcement, community policing, prevention/intervention/ treatment and neighborhood restoration.

Back to Basics: The majority of transportation improvements such as sidewalks, curbing, street lighting and street surface improvements were completed using Back to Basics funds.



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SLUM ABATEMENT AND BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE (SABER)

Mayor and Council adopted SABER as a pilot program in November 2001 to combat residential rental properties that have a long history of code violations and neighborhood complaints. Administered by the Department of Neighborhood Resources, this program is a coordinated, comprehensive code enforcement approach that brings together the resources of nine city departments, each of which shares responsibilities related to enforcement of and prosecution under the City's Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.

SABER Goals:

- 1) Reduce substandard living conditions and slum properties that promote neighborhood blight.
- 2) Enhance physical living conditions for tenants and occupants.
- 3) Enforce property related City Codes (Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance).
- 4) Address displacement issues and related social service needs of those affected by substandard living conditions.
- 5) Improve organizational capacity and coordination of response.
- 6) Educate the community and property-related standards and associated penalties for non-compliance.

Accomplishments:

- Responded to over 3,000 property code violation complaints.
- Performed over 10,500 on-site group inspections of slum and blighted properties.
- Improved the livability of over 1,200 residential rental units.
- Initiated efforts resulting in the demolition of 12 vacant, dilapidated structures.
- Held 25 neighborhood educational workshops on code enforcement and the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.
- Developed and distributed the following English/Spanish educational materials:
 - “Renters Have Rights”
 - “Keep Your Home Up To Code”
 - “Property and Housing—A Resource Guide for Complaints”
 - “Property Maintenance Resource Directory”.
- Provided relocation assistance to over 23 households and 68 individuals.
- Triaged 465 complaints and referred those to appropriate City departments or other Government agencies.
- Nationally recognized as an effective and innovative municipal code enforcement program by the Innovations Group and Neighborhoods USA.

Before



After



Before



After



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NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Parks & Recreation Department completed improvements totaling an estimated \$8.9 million during FY 2004, addressing a portion of the many needs that exist in the City's park facilities. Funding for these projects came primarily from City capital funds and the City General Fund, supplemented by a number of other sources including Back-to-Basics, Pima County and private or non-profit entities.

Parks & Recreation improvements incorporate aspects of all three of the Neighborhoods Focus Area strategies for Fiscal Year 2004. Facilities and services are designed to address the human environment by encouraging family activities, participation and inclusion. Partnerships with school districts, non-profits and others help enhance the livability of the built environment. A balance of active and passive park spaces, and ambitious educational programs at the Reid Park Zoo work together to model respect and preservation of the natural environment both locally and globally.

Accomplishments

- The Parks & Recreation Department was able to complete the following projects during the past year, which address the goal of ensuring that facilities are constantly updated, expanded and constructed to accommodate increasing numbers of park users:
 - 8 playgrounds were outfitted with new equipment: Hudlow Elementary School Park, Menlo, Vista del Pueblo, Michael Perry, Santa Rosa, Purple Heart, James Thomas and Desert Shadows.
 - 9 additional park ramadas opened: Hudlow Elementary School Park, Iron Horse, Esquer, Purple Heart, Santa Rosa and Parkview.
 - Jacobs Park's Pool was replaced.
 - 3 new facilities were added to the parks inventory: Freedom Park Center, Cancer Survivors Plaza in Reid Park and the Diamondbacks Little League field at Jacobs Park.
 - 3 new parks opened: North 6th Ave. Commemorative Pet Park, Hudlow Elementary School Park and San Gabriel Park (Montecito Island).
 - 3 parks were expanded: Purple Heart Park, Esquer Park and Iron Horse Park.
 - 2 centers had remodeling projects begin: Pascua and Oury Centers.
 - 9 park renovation projects were instituted: Hi-Corbett Stadium irrigation, Fred Enke booster pump, Reid Park booster pump, Jacome Plaza at the Main Library, Murrieta lights, Palo Verde Little League lights, the Rodeo Grounds, Zoo Polar Bear exhibit and Golf Links parking.

